upgradation. In addition, rate of depreciation allowance for machinery under TUFS has been raised to 50%.

Decline in Textile Exports

1160. DR. M.N. DAS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the first half of the current financial year, namely, April to September, there has been a steady decline of Textile Exports as well as of export of Crafts and readymade garments;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the exports of raw cotton, cotton yarn and fabrics have rapidly declined even though the production of textile yarns by indigenous industries remains same as before; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR) (a) and (b) There is decline in the textile exports during the first half of the current financial year but the percentage decline is much less during the second quarter (5.1%) as compared to the first quarter (22.9%).

(c) The main reason for decline in textile exports are general slowdown in the economies of some of our major trading partners like the US; increased competition from countries like China, Bangladesh; and high production cost, low productivity due to lack of modernisation of textile industry.

Deline in garment exports

1161. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether during April, 2001, the readymade garments exports were US$ 63 million which represent a decline of 13 per cent as compared to the corresponding period of 2000-01;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons for the decline;

(c) which are the major countries or regions that are importing readymade garments from India; and